



DC
COMICS™

23.4

THE NEW 52!

TM

BATMAN

TM



NOV 2013

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MARCH
13

LONG AGO,
THESE HANDS TOOK
DOWN THE *ONE MAN*
WHO HAD NEVER
BEFORE FALLEN. I TOOK
THIS MAN'S *CITY* AND I
TOOK THIS MAN'S
HOPE.

BUT HE
ROSE AGAIN LIKE
A *DEVIL*, AND HIS
CITY WAS *STOLEN*
FROM ME.

HE IS GONE
AGAIN, TAKEN
BY THE HANDS OF
OTHERS, AND *NOW*
I WANT THE CITY
BACK.

I HAVE
REFINED MY
VENOM.

ITS *UNIQUE*
PROPERTIES
ENHANCE MY
STRENGTH.

A *SMALL*
DOSE FLOWS
THROUGH YOU,
AS WELL.

FEEL
ITS *GIFT*
AND COMPLETE
THE SINGLE TASK
I ASK OF YOU
BEFORE I LEAVE
THIS PLACE...

...*TRY*
AND KILL
ME IF YOU
CAN!

THE CARIBBEAN REPUBLIC OF SANTA PRISCA.
PENAL DURA PRISON.

A
BODY AT
REST STAYS
AT REST.

A
BODY IN
MOTION STAYS
IN MOTION.

SKLATCH

ONLY WHEN
I'M DEAD DO
I INTEND TO
REST.

AGHHH!

SKRAK

WILL ANY
OF YOU MAKE
THAT HAPPEN?!

DC COMICS
UNLEASHES

BANE

DARK
DESTINY

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YOU
SERVE ME
WILLINGLY.

MOMENTS
OF GRACE...



...AND
MOMENTS
OF *SACRIFICE*
FOR SOMETHING
GREATER THAN
YOURSELVES.

KRAKK



PROUD TO BE
KINDLING.

FRACK



PROUD
TO JOIN THE
MANY OTHERS
WHO *FEED THE*
FIRE.

PAPAP?



P-P...
PEQUITA...

YOU
INVITE YOUR
DAUGHTER HERE
IN HOPES THAT I
WILL *SPARE* YOU,
RIVERA?

<POR...FAVOR,
BANE...GRANT MY
DAUGHTER'S WISH...
I AM ALL SHE
HAS.>



NO, NO, YOU
MISUNDERSTAND,
SEÑOR BANE...



...I
CAME TO
WATCH.

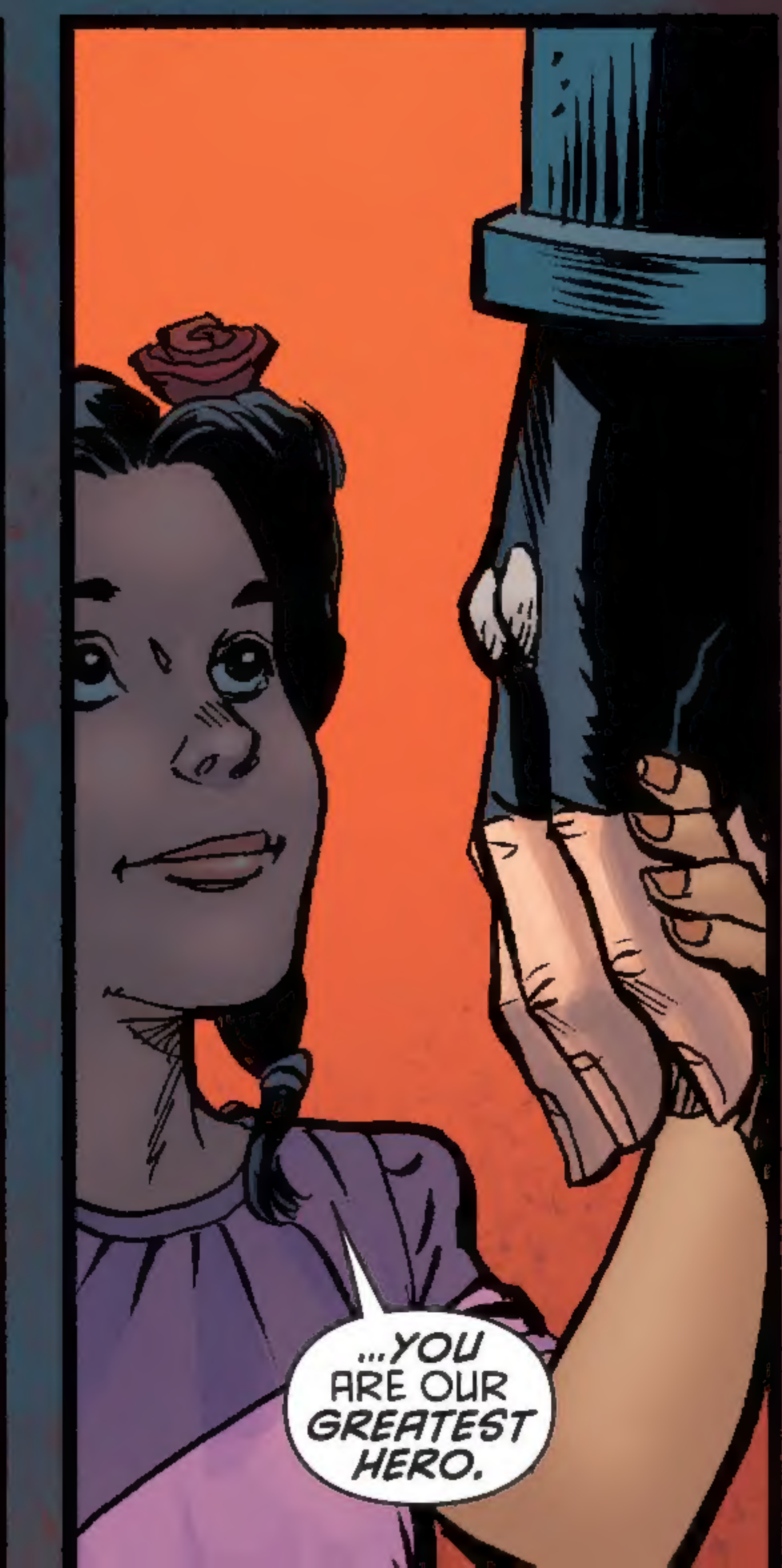




I HATED HIM. HE BEAT ME AND MY MOTHER ALL THE TIME.

THE OTHER CHILDREN *RUN* FROM THIS PLACE. THEY KNOW IT IS YOUR HOME.

THEY KNOW YOU ARE THE MAN WHO FREED THIS COUNTRY... WE LEARN IT IN SCHOOL... BUT THEY *FEAR* YOU, TOO.







IT WILL BE
FOUR DAYS'
JOURNEY TO
GOTHAM
CITY.

OUR PEOPLE
ALREADY THERE TELL
US THAT **THE OWLS**
EXPECT NOTHING, DESPITE
OUR PAST TROUBLES, AND
THE **BATS** HAVE ALL BUT
DISAPPEARED.

YOUR
TIMING IS
PERFECT. THE
WAR YOU'VE
EARNED IS
FINALLY AT
HAND.



YOU HAVE
TWO DAYS
TO GET US
THERE...



...IF NOT,
YOU AND YOUR
CREW WILL EACH
BE **CRUSHED** BY
MY HANDS...



"...AND FED
TO THE SHIP'S
DOG."

HOURS LATER...

"I SERVE
BANE BECAUSE HE
CARRIES THE SOUL
OF SANTA PRISCA
IN HIS HANDS--

"--SOME
FORGET, BUT I
REMEMBER...

"...HIS FATHER WAS A
REVOLUTIONARY WHO STOOD
UP FOR THOSE OF US WHO
HAD ALWAYS BEEN BENEATH
THE GOVERNMENT'S
BOOT--

"--HIS FATHER,
ALWAYS CUNNING,
ESCAPED. AND BANE, STILL
A CHILD, TOOK HIS PLACE
IN PEÑA DURA PRISON.

"BANE PAID HIS FATHER'S
DUE...THE TRUE TEST
OF A SANTA PRISCAN.

"OVER MANY YEARS,
BANE WAITED--HE GREW
STRONGER--WISER
AND CUNNING.

"SOME WILL SAY THAT
THE VENOM THAT COURSES
THROUGH HIS VEINS MADE THE
MAN STRONGER--THAT HE WAS
SOMETHING LESS UNTIL
THE VENOM.

"BUT THE
FAITHFUL KNOW
THAT IT WAS THE
MAN WHO BECAME
GREAT FIRST.

"THE FAITHFUL
KNOW THAT
VENOM IS JUST
HIS BLOOD.

"THAT IT ADAPTED TO
HIS PHYSIOLOGY LIKE A
MIRROR TO REFLECT
HIS MAGNIFICENCE."



"AS HIS LEGEND GREW, HE SAW
IN A FARAWAY LAND ANOTHER
REFLECTION. A CITY THAT
HOUSED DARK MADNESS THAT
EVEN THOSE THROUGHOUT
AMERICA FEARED.

"AN
UNTAMABLE
CITY.

"AND THEN, LIKE ALL
GREAT MEN, HE SAW
SOMETHING HE
WANTED AND DECIDED
TO TAKE IT.

"BUT THAT CITY
HAD A PROTECTOR.

"AN OTHERWORLDLY
DEMON WHO USED CUNNING
AND TRICKERY TO STOP
BANE FROM ACHIEVING A
GREAT VICTORY TIME
AND AGAIN.

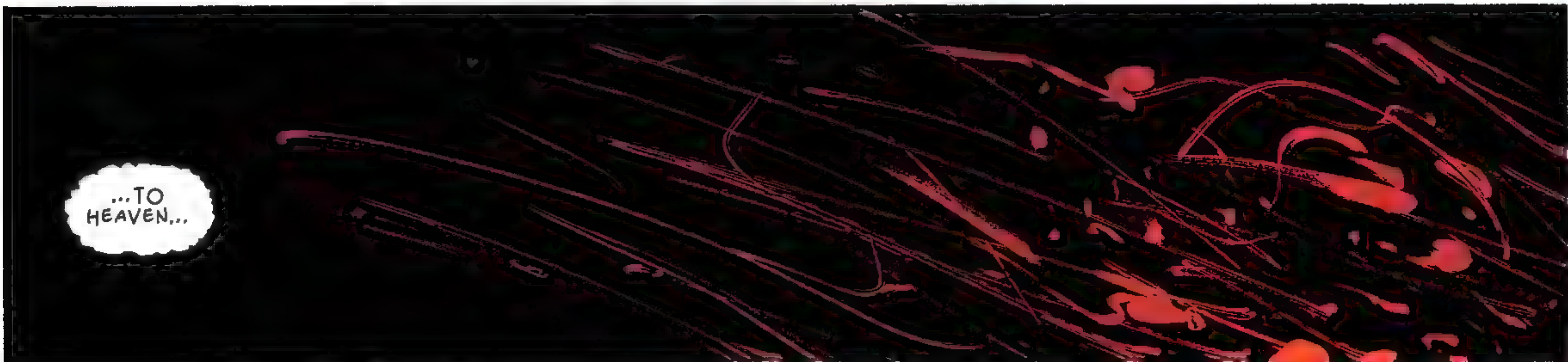
"THE DEMON
THOUGHT HE WAS THE
CITY'S KNIGHT..."

...BUT HE
ONLY DELAYED
WHAT HAS
BEEN LONG
COMING...

HMM?

THE
SOCIETY'S
REACH
EXTENDS
TO THE
MOON.

..BANE BUILT
AN ARMY OUT OF
ALL WHO WOULD
FOLLOW, AND IT'S
NOW RISING AT HIS
COMMAND--



BLACKGATE PENITENTIARY.
GOTHAM CITY.

GIVE ME
THE **HEADCOUNT**
BEFORE I BEAT
YOU WITH THAT
DAMN **QPAD**,
DONALD!

ALL OUR
SECURITY SYSTEMS
ARE ON-LINE AND
HOLDING, **AGATHA**.
WE'RE NOT SEEING ANY
BREAKOUTS, BUT THEY
COULD COME AT ANY
MOMENT.

AND I'M
ALREADY DOWN
TO A **BARE-BONES**
STAFF THANKS TO OUR
WONDERFUL STATE AND
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
INABILITY TO SEE
PAST THEIR OWN
ASSES.

I'M AN
INTERIM WARDEN!
I'M NOT EVEN
SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE
HOLDING DOWN A
DESK JOB IN
HAWAII!

THIS
SUCKS,
DONALD.
THIS REALLY
SUCKS.

THE GOOD NEWS
IS THE GENERATORS
ARE STILL AT 100 PERCENT.
THEY HAVE A **VERY** HIGH
CAPACITY DUE TO THE
EXTRA LOAD UNDER
THE PENITENT--

DONALD,
I KNOW YOU WERE
AN **INTERIM** FOUR WEEKS
AGO, SO LET ME BREAK
SOMETHING TO YOU
ABOUT LIFE.

WHEN ALL
THE ELECTRICITY ON
THE EASTERN SEABOARD
GOES OUT, PLANES START
FALLING FROM THE SKY
AND AN UNPLANNED
FREAKING **ECLIPSE** TAKES
OUT THE SUN... THERE
IS **NO GOOD**
NEWS...

...IT'S JUST
NEWS WHICH IS
VARYING DEGREES
OF **CRAPPY**
RIGHT N--

GRRR!



...WHAT THE HELL...?



IT'S ON MY SCREEN, TOO.



ATTENTION ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL, THIS IS **WARDEN ZORBATOS**. LET ME SAY UPFRONT, PEOPLE, THAT I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY SOB STORIES ABOUT YOUR FAMILIES.

YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO--IT'S **HERE**, KEEPING THESE **ANIMALS** FROM YOUR FAMILIES.

SOME OF YOU HAVE LIVED THROUGH THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE...RECENTLY EVEN. IT'S WHY YOU GET THE BIG BUCKS.

BUT UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE, OUR **JOB** IS TO KEEP OVER TWO THOUSAND OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PRISONERS THIS SIDE OF ARKHAM **CONTAINED** IN THEIR CELLS.



IF THESE DOORS SWING OPEN, THEY'VE ESSENTIALLY GOT A SMALL ARMY AGAINST OUR SKELETON CREW, DONALD.

UMM... I'VE NEVER FIRED A GUN BEFORE...

ALWAYS A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING. AND TAKE EXTRA SHELLS. IF THINGS GET BAD...



...MY GUESS IS I'M NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT TO HAWAII.

K-CHAK



DONALD-- STAY HERE AND FIRE AT ANYTHING THAT COMES THROUGH THIS--



HIYA,
WARDEN.

BANE
CALLED
AHEAD.



SATELLITE PHONE'S GONE DEAD, BUT THE LAST TRANSMISSION SAID BLACKGATE IS NOW *UNDER CONTROL*.

YOUR MEN INFILTRATED THE GUARDS EASILY, AND THE PRISON POPULATION IS *EAGER* TO COOPERATE.

THE POLICE KNOW *NOTHING*. THEY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE *ARKHAM SITUATION*.



I KNOW THEM WELL, *MALICIA*, AND THE ARKHAMITES ARE AS *IDIOTIC* AS THEY ARE *INSANE*.

RECENTLY, I WAS CALLED AMONG THEM AND THEIR PLAN IS TO WASTE TIME AND RESOURCES CUTTING GOTHAM LIKE A *PIE*--ALL TO SHOW OFF THEIR DIFFERENT BRANDS OF *MADNESS* TO EACH OTHER.

THE FOOLS DO NOT RESPECT WHAT THEY HAVE WON, AND *THAT* IS WHY I WILL TAKE IT.



I WIN BECAUSE I ALWAYS *RESPECT* THE PREY.



FLY AHEAD WITH A DOSE OF VENOM. SEND ONE OF OUR BLACKGATE GUARDS OUT INTO THE CITY ON A *HUNT*.

I WANT THE ONE WHO THINKS HE IS SMARTER THAN THE REST--THE ONE WHO THRIVES ON FEAR.

THE SCARECROW. THEY ALL DESPISE HIM.

TAKE THE CROW DOWN AND THE REST WILL UNDERSTAND THIS WAR CANNOT BE AVOIDED AS I GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO *TRULY FEAR*.

THEN WE PREPARE THE MEN.

GO.





THESE GIFTS
ARE YOURS. *ARM
YOURSELVES!*



TONIGHT,
SANTA PRISCA'S
MEN WILL CARRY
THE POWER TO *SET
FIRE* TO THIS
WORLD!



BUT AS
YOUR LEADER,
I GO WITH ONLY
MY BARE HANDS TO
BREAK THE BACKS
OF ALL THOSE WHO
HAVE KEPT YOU
BEGGING FOR
EVEN A MORSEL.

SHRAKK



YOU KNOW
OF MY STORY.
I HEAR IT PASS
YOUR LIPS.

I TASTE
THE FEAR IT
BRINGS.

BUT MY
DESTINY IS *MINE*
ALONE. DO NOT THINK
YOU ARE LIVING A
SHADOW VERSION
OF MY LIFE.

YOU ARE
MY HAND-CHOSEN
APOSTLES, BUT
YOU ARE NOT
ME.

TONIGHT
YOU FORGE THE
FIRST CHAPTERS OF
YOUR OWN STORIES--
STORIES THAT WILL
BECOME *LEGENDS* AS
YOU PASS THEM TO
YOUR CHILDREN.

OR YOU WILL
DIE, AND THE MAN
STANDING NEXT TO YOU
WILL BRUTALLY MURDER
YOUR KILLER IN YOUR
NAME, *SANCTIFYING*
YOUR DEATH.

IT
IS OUR
WAY.

SO DRINK
OF MY VENOM.
LET IT RUN THROUGH
YOU, MAKING YOU
STRONGER, MAKING
YOU *WORTHIER*.

THEIR PROTECTOR IS GONE.
THEY HAVE NO HOPE. THEY
HAVE NO FAITH. THEY HAVE
ONLY OUR *HARSH*
JUDGMENT TO LOOK
FORWARD TO.

ON THIS
NIGHT YOU BRING
YOUR VIOLENTLY WON
SANTA PRISCAN DEFIANCE
TO THE STREETS OF
THE *BATMAN'S*
HOME.

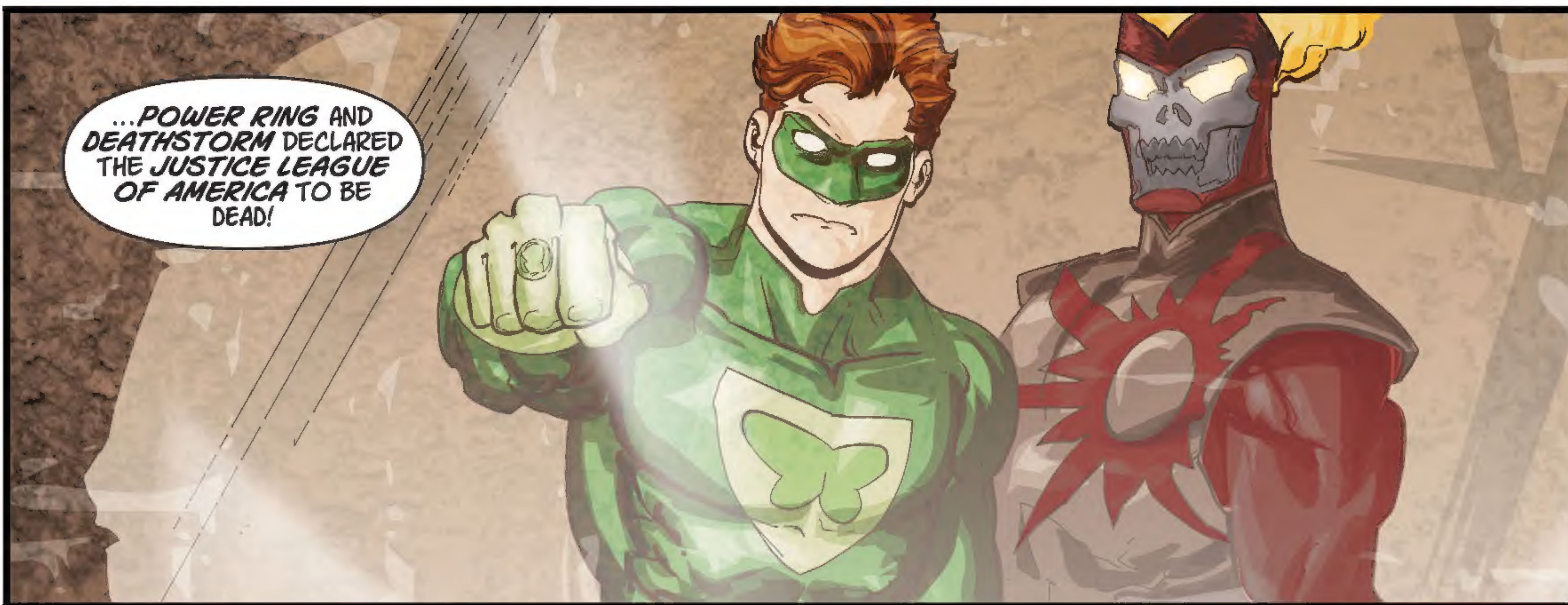
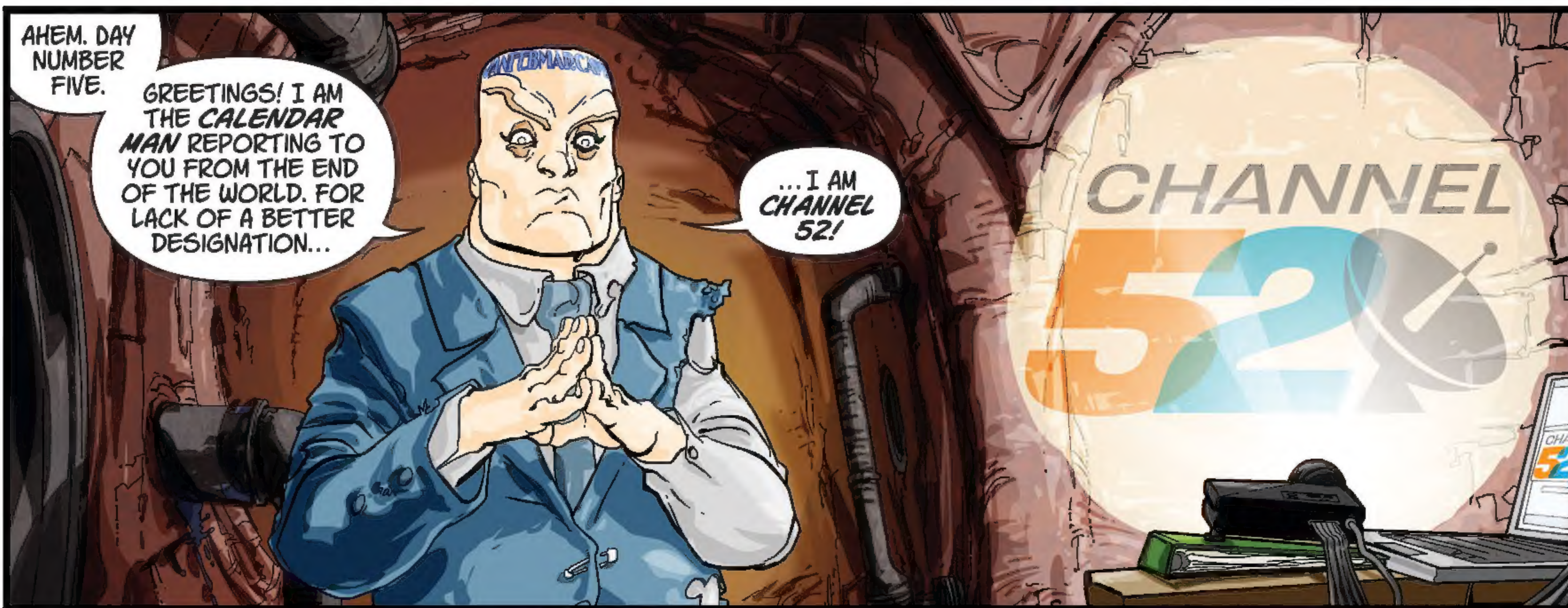
AND
YOU DO IT IN
MY NAME!

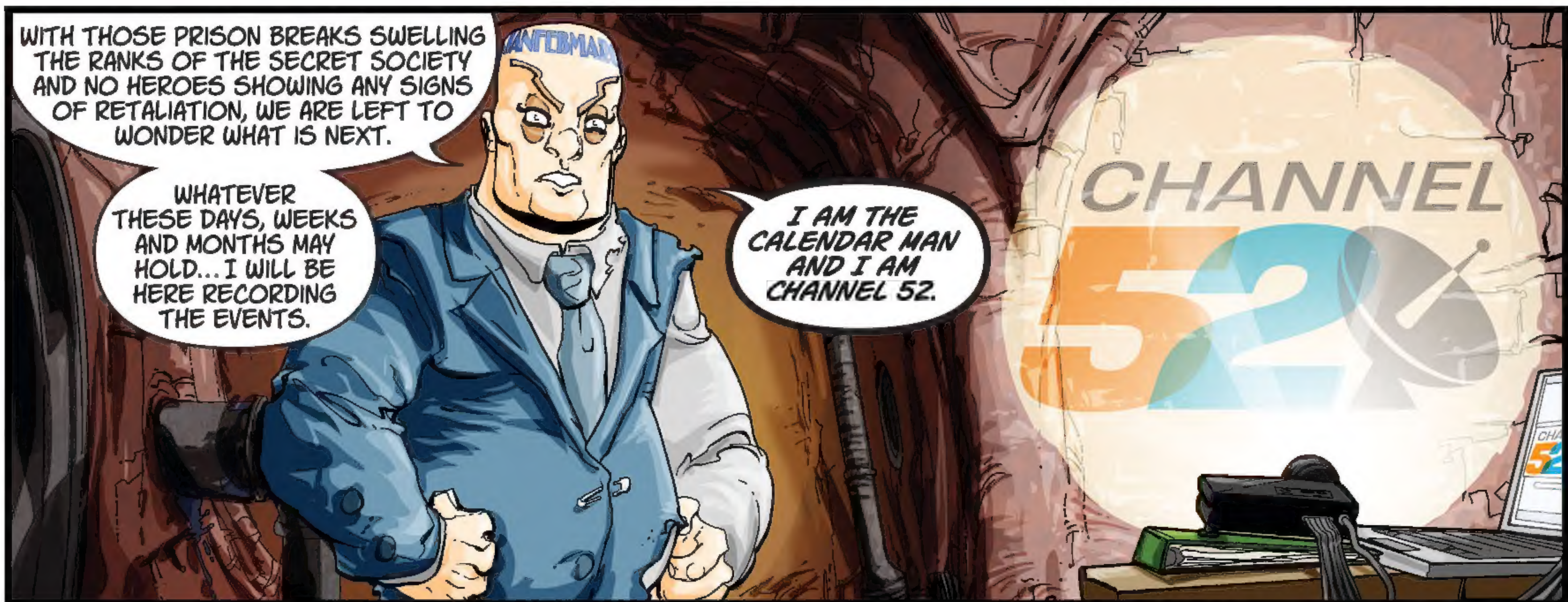
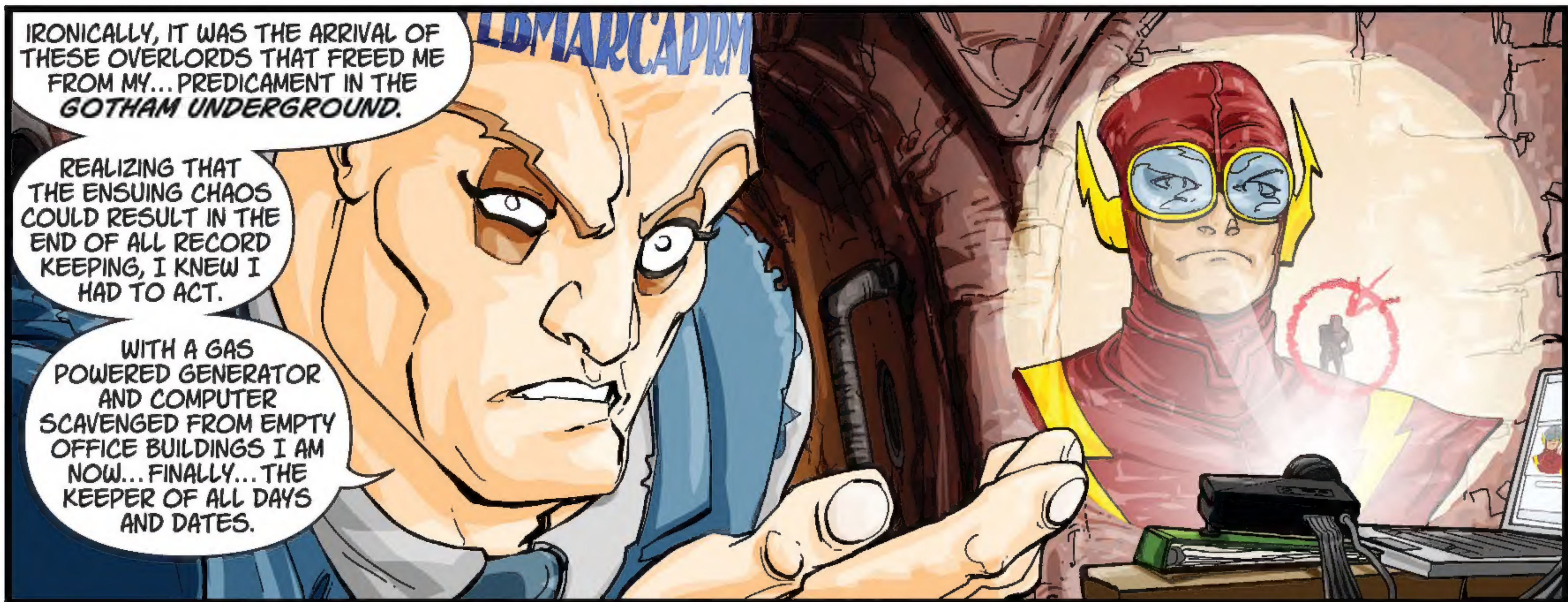
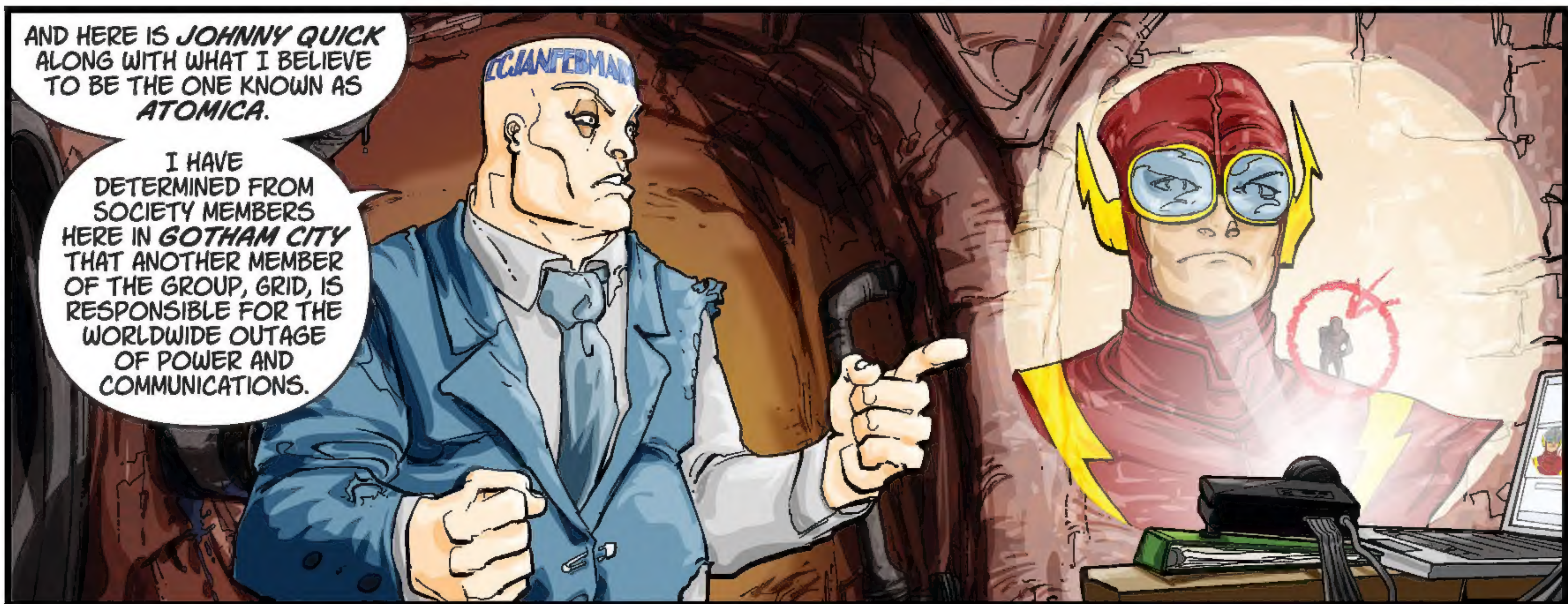
TONIGHT...
THE SPIRIT OF
SANTA PRISCA
IS YOURS...

...AND
GOTHAM
CITY IS
MINE!



TO BE CONTINUED IN
FOREVEREVIL
ARKHAM
WAR #1





The Last Kryptonian-DCP

